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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY JOHNNY SUTTON FOLLOWING TODAY'S RULING BY
THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT IN RE: UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA V. IGNACIO RAMOS AND JOSE ALONSO COMPEAN**

Today, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals denied a request for a rehearing and a request for an *en banc* hearing in the case of United States vs. Ramos and Compean. This action by the Fifth Circuit means they will not hear anymore arguments on the appeal and the circuit has ordered that the petitions for rehearing and rehearing *en banc* be denied. I am pleased with today's ruling, just as I was earlier this summer when a panel of the same court affirmed the convictions of the most serious charges against Mr. Compean and Mr. Ramos. Today's ruling validates what this office has said all along - this prosecution was about the rule of law, plain and simple.

On July 28, 2008, the Fifth Circuit, in upholding the majority of Compean and Ramos' convictions, stated that "[t]he trial of the case was conducted fairly and without reversible error." With today's denial of a rehearing and a denial of an *en banc* hearing, I would again ask that those who have criticized the prosecution, generally relying upon misleading and at times false versions of what happened, to re-evaluate their positions in light of the court record, including the description of the evidence provided by the Fifth Circuit opinion. I believe that those who understand the record and the evidence introduced at trial will realize that the actions of Compean and Ramos in shooting an unarmed and fleeing suspect were serious crimes which had to be prosecuted in order to maintain the rule of law.

The simple truth of this case is that former Agents Compean and Ramos shot 15 times at an unarmed man who was running away from them and posed no threat. They lied about what happened, covered up the shooting, and then proceeded to write up and file a false report.

Agents Compean and Ramos were indicted by an El Paso federal grand jury and were unanimously convicted after a 2 ½ week jury trial in which both defendants testified. The Fifth Circuit affirmed the most serious charges against them and has denied their request for a rehearing on the matter. In America, law-enforcement officers do not get to shoot unarmed suspects who are running away, lie about it and file official reports that are false. That is a crime and prosecutors cannot look the other way.

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